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S-1000-20000  
What is claimed is:

1. An enterprise network comprising:
  - a plurality of local area networks;
  - at least one service delivery unit having a data port and a network interface port;
  - the network interface port coupled to a wide area network;
  - the data port coupled to the plurality of local area networks; and
  - a policy server, communicatively coupled to the at least one service delivery unit, the policy server including policies for bandwidth allocation stored on a computer readable medium, such that the service delivery unit selectively allocates bandwidth to users based on the policies stored in the policy server.
2. The enterprise network of claim 1, and further including a router coupled between the data port and the plurality of local area networks.
3. The enterprise network of claim 1, wherein the data port is coupled to the local area network over an Ethernet connection.
4. The enterprise network of claim 1, wherein the at least one service delivery unit includes a cache that stores policies retrieved from the policy server.
5. The enterprise network of claim 1, wherein the policy server includes at least two servers that are located at geographically different locations in the enterprise network.
6. The enterprise network of claim 5, wherein service delivery units that are located at geographically different locations from the at least two servers communicate with one of the at least two servers over a permanent virtual connection in the wide area network.

7. The enterprise network of claim 6, and wherein the permanent virtual connection comprises a secure connection.
8. The enterprise network of claim 1, wherein the at least one service delivery unit includes router functionality.
9. The enterprise network of claim 1, wherein the policies stored on the policy server include data that the at least one service delivery unit uses to prioritize access to bandwidth over the wide area network and to control the amount of bandwidth allocated for each request.
10. The enterprise network of claim 1, wherein the at least one service delivery unit uses service mapping in allocating bandwidth to a user based on the policies stored on the policy console.
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11. A service delivery unit, comprising:
- a network interface port coupleable to a wide area network;
  - a data port coupleable to a plurality of local area networks;
  - a policy server interface coupleable to a policy server that includes policies for bandwidth allocation stored on a computer readable medium; and
  - a central processing unit, communicatively coupled to the network interface port, the data port and the policy server interface, wherein the central processing unit executes instructions to selectively allocate bandwidth in the wide area network for users of the plurality of local area networks based on the policies stored in the policy server.
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12. The service delivery unit of claim 11, wherein the central processing further executes instructions to perform router functions for the data port.

13. The service delivery unit of claim 11, and further comprising a cache for caching policies retrieved from the policy server.

14. The service delivery unit of claim 11, wherein the network port comprises an  
5 interface that is coupleable to communicate with the wide area network over a number  
of permanent virtual connections.

15. The service delivery unit of claim 11, wherein the central processing unit uses  
service mapping to allocate bandwidth.

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16. An enterprise network comprising:  
at least one local area network at a first geographic location;  
at least one additional local area network at a second, different geographic  
location;  
15 a first service delivery unit having a data port that is coupled to the at least one  
local area network and a network interface port that is coupled to a wide area  
network;  
a second service delivery unit having a data port that is coupled to the at least  
one additional local area network and a network interface port that is coupled to the  
20 wide area network; and  
a policy server, communicatively coupled to the first and second service  
delivery units, the policy server including policies for bandwidth allocation stored on  
a computer readable medium, such that the service delivery units selectively allocate  
bandwidth to users based on the policies stored in the policy server.

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17. A method for providing bandwidth management in an enterprise network, the  
method comprising:

receiving a request for connection over a wide area network;  
classifying the request;

identifying global policies that relate to the request; and  
applying the identified policies to control the priority and amount of bandwidth  
to allocate to the request over the wide area network.

- 5    18. The method of claim 17, wherein classifying the request comprises:  
            identifying the user by IP address; and  
            identifying the type of request.
- 10    19. The method of claim 17, wherein identifying policies comprises:  
            identifying policies in a cache of a service delivery unit; and  
            when applicable policies are not found in the cache, requesting additional  
            policies from a policy server.
- 15    20. The method of claim 19, wherein requesting additional policies from the policy  
            server comprises communicating with the policy server over a secure permanent  
            virtual connection.
- 20    21. The method of claim 17, wherein applying the identified policies comprises:  
            determining the amount and type of bandwidth requested;  
            determining the priority for the request;  
            determining whether sufficient bandwidth is available; and  
            when sufficient bandwidth is available, selectively assigning bandwidth to the  
            user based on the policies.